



Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services

The Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services (AGHPS)

Jane Chamberlin Award 2021 Selection

Hospital: Mount Sinai Hospital

Candidate's Name: Sami-Beth Kuchar

Position: Director, Department of Psychiatry

Email address: Sami-Beth.Kuchar@sinaihealth.ca

Sami-Beth has always gone “above and beyond” in her work. She joined Sinai with primary responsibility for ambulatory services. Then when the need arose, she added being the manager of our inpatient psychiatric unit. In the past year, she navigated the impact of COVID, including having the first outbreak at Sinai happening on our unit. She was responsible for navigating infection control, concerned staff and patients and always leaves those encounters with people being both more informed and feeling a bit more calm. In addition to this, she took over the leadership of the Incident Management System (IMS) for Psychiatry and for the first time I can recall, effected psychiatric patient transfers from hospitals in need on a regular basis; anyone with experience with this is familiar with what a difficult venture that has been. She has been informally lauded for these accomplishments and in true Sami fashion, never takes the credit, rather emphasizes the contributions of all partners and team members. While this cooperation is needed, the previous results demonstrate that her contributions were crucial. She is an incredibly deserving of recognition from the Association.

Best regards,

Greg Chandler

Submitted by

Gregory Chandler, MD

Clinical Director, Inpatient Psychiatry, Mount Sinai Hospital